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ILLINOIS

Partnerships transforming Illinois into a vital center of an emerging green economy

Throughout Illinois, public, private and nonprofit organizations have been working together to transform and meet the demands of the emerging green economy, including new employment opportunities. Below are some links to a few of the reports that could assist you, your local governments, and financial institutions to establish and implement green policies and programs.

The Delta Institute and affiliates' published its 59 page report, Removing Market Barriers to Green Development: Principles and Action Projects to Promote Widespread Adoption of Green Development Practices. The report describes six principles for removing market barriers to green development, and recommends action projects and next steps to address these barriers and to further support green development practices. The complete report can be found at www.delta-institute.org/marketbarriers.

Also, the Delta Redevelopment Institute and its partners are developing economic development strategies for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for its long-range plan (GO TO 2040 Plan). Delta's report is focused on green economic growth strategies for both emerging green sectors (e.g., green energy, green building products and services, waste recycling), as well as the greening of existing sectors. Goals, objectives, strategies, and indicators are included in the report to inform decisions throughout the region. The report is expected to be published in Summer 2009, and will be available for download at CMAP's GoTo2040 Web site, www.goto2040.org.

The city of Chicago and its partners have recently released the Guide to Completing an Energy Efficiency & Conservation Strategy. "Chicago's guide will help cities and counties to thoughtfully plan for long-term and sustainable energy efficiency and conservation, and maximize the opportunity the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program planning dollars represent." Among other topics, the report covers model plan outlines, a planning process guide, and steps to completing a green jobs and economic development plan. The complete report can be found at www. cnt.org/repository/ CHICAGOEECGUIDE4POST.pdf.

Another partnership initiative in Illinois includes the Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative (Initiative), which was founded with the intent of organizing stakeholders around the opportunities and resources around green collar jobs. The Initiative is a collaboration of partners from labor groups, community organizations, businesses, community colleges, sustainability organizations, and environmental and workforce development nonprofits. The mission of the Initiative is to facilitate the development of a skilled workforce that is ready to meet employer demands in the emerging "green" economy and to capture new employment opportunities for Chicagoland workers.

The Initiative explores and identifies "employment and job training opportunities to prepare workers for emerging green jobs related to sustainability, natural resource conservation and environmental related technology. The target audience for a new green collar jobs program includes: unskilled, unemployed or underemployed individuals, and incumbent workers requiring updated training for new technologies. They follow the philosophy of national program leaders, Green for All and the Apollo Alliance, by concentrating on green collar jobs as a

pathway out of poverty. The Initiative supports the development of green collar jobs that will focus on low-income, disadvantaged communities and developing career paths that lift people into head-of-household jobs." Additional information can be found at www. greencollarchicago.org.

INDIANA

Indiana is now home to Midwest's largest wind farm

After phase I of the Fowler Ridge Wind Farm in Benton County, Indiana is now fully operational. The first 400 megawatts of the project will generate enough carbon-free electricity to power approximately 120,000 average homes. Of the 400-megawatt facility, BP Wind Energy and Dominion are partners on approximately 300 megawatts being produced at what they call the largest wind farm in the Midwest. The two companies could expand the facility to a total of 750 megawatts in the future.

"The commercial operation of the Fowler Ridge I Wind Farm marks an important step for BP in helping Indiana increase its role as a provider of energy to support growing state and national demands. This wind farm will deliver over 1 billion kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity every year and brings new revenue streams to rural communities without impact on traditional farming and grazing practices. The cooperation of the landowners, county officials, contractors and sub contractors has been the key to the success of this project" said John Graham, president, BP Wind Energy.

The article above was excerpted and can be found by visiting www. insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem. asp?ID=35066.

IOWA

Alternative energy programs called "most important" by lowa's governor

Iowa's Governor Culver continues to proclaim his commitment to alternative energy as his "number one priority." Pivotal to that commitment was the creation, in 2007, of the Iowa Power Fund, which was funded by \$100 million to use to stimulate investment in alternative forms of energy over that year and the following three years.

The legislation creating the lowa Power Fund, which has an 18-member board, also created an Office of Energy Independence to administer the funds. The funds will be used to, "...leverage private investment and federal grants." Governor Culver recently stated that the, "...roughly \$30 million already spent on the Power Fund had leveraged \$190 million in federal funding along with private investment."

lowa has been involved for almost a decade as a leader in alternative energy, including ethanol research and production, as well as wind energy. Culver hopes to see lowa become, "...the energy capital of the world." The Consumer and Community Affairs division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago has sponsored or co-sponsored more than eight conferences and symposia in lowa since 1999 on the rural and agricultural economy in lowa, culminating in recent years in focusing on alternative energy as a component of that economy.

In April 2009, the lowa Alliance for Wind Innovation and Novel Development (IAWIND) received a \$3 million, three-year grant from the lowa Power Fund. IAWIND is a collaborative project led by the University of Iowa College of Engineering, whose purpose is to "...help the state to attract wind energy companies and related industries in an effort to enhance Iowa's already high position as a U.S. leader in windgenerated energy. Last year, Iowa

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captured the No. 2 national position in wind energy generation capacity."

The above includes excerpts from whotv.com, siouxcityjournal.com, and uiowa.edu. For more information, contact the lowa Department of Economic Development at (515) 242-4700 or www.iowalifechanging.com/community/mainstreetiowa.

MICHIGAN

Michigan is No. 10 in clean energy jobs

Michigan is starting from a strong base as it strives to become a leader in alternative energy, according to a recent report. The state has the 10th largest number of clean energy jobs in the nation, with 22,674 jobs at 1,932 businesses in 2007, according to researchers at the Pew Charitable Trusts. Michigan clean technology businesses attracted \$55.1 million in venture capital investment from 2006 through 2008, ranking it 21st among all states.

The preceding was an excerpt from www.freep.com.

WISCONSIN

A culture of sustainability at Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center

Milwaukee's Riverside Park is located just north of downtown Milwaukee, on the shores of the Milwaukee River, in the shadow of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee campus. Designed by the legendary Fredrick Law Olmstead, Riverside Park was once a destination for city residents and tourists alike.

By the mid-1980s, in an all-toocommon story in urban America, the river was too polluted to use, and the abandoned park was a source of neighborhood crime that ran at more than double to the crime rate of the city. The story of how Riverside Park was reclaimed and renewed is a replicable model of how a "culture of sustainability" can thrive in an urban setting.

Today the park is maintained as a nature center in the city. The Neighborhood Environment Education Program that helps students within a two-mile radius of the center improve their science skills and scores is augmented by a community program that encourages safe, unstructured "time in nature" for kids that will help them become life-long environmental stewards.

The 20,000 square foot Urban Ecology Center is a model of environmentally sustainable design and development: "Powered by sun, flushed with rain water, and made of recycled and reused materials, every detail was intended to model environmental behavior not as a demonstration but as a call to action," according to Ken Leinbach, the Center's executive director. For a complete history of the Urban Ecology Center and its programs, see Ken Leinbach's article, It's Kind of Fun to Do the Impossible: The Story of Milwaukee's Urban Ecology Center, at www.colorado.edu/journals/cye.

For more information on the Urban Ecology Center's current programs and future plans, which include creating a new Center in Washington Park (another Olmstead-designed park being reclaimed in central Milwaukee), visit the Center's Web site at http://urbanecologycenter.org.